

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 ARA-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5313

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, RP
SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: CAMPAIGNING CONTINUES

REF: MANILA 5229

1. SUMMARY: UNKNOWN PERSONS BLEW UP A CAR BELONGING TO THE SON OF THE HEAD OF THE MILITARY TRIBUNAL WHICH IS TRYING THE AQUINO CASE. MRS. MARCOS TOLD A RALLY THAT 500,000 "TRANSIENT" MANILA RESIDENTS WILL VOTE HERE RATHER THAN IN THEIR HOME PROVINCES. THE OPPOSITION LABAN PARTY HAS PROTESTED TO THE SUPREME COURT A COMELEC RULING SETTING A MARCH 31 DEADLINE FOR LISTING PARTY POLL-WATCHERS. THE WIDOW OF THE MAN AQUINO IS ACCUSED OF KILLING HAS WRITTEN A PUBLIC LETTER ASKING FOR SYMPATHY FOR HER TOO. VALENCIA PREDICTS THE IBP WILL ELECT THREE VICE-PREMIERS, BUT NOT TO INCLUDE MRS. MARCOS. HE ALSO CALLS LEBAN'S SCHEDULED "NOISE BARRAGE" A "CIA TRICK." THURSDAY THROUGH MONDAY ARE NOW OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE LATEST BOMBING INCIDENT APPRRENTLY RELATED TO THE ELECTIONS, THE CAR OF JOSE SYJUCO, JR., WAS BLOWN UP ON APRIL 3 IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE PENINSULA
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HOTEL. SYJUCO, AN ASSISTANT TO DFA UNDERSECRETARY COLLANTES, WAS DINING WITH HIS BOSS AT THE HOTEL AT THE TIME. SYJUCO IS THE SON OF BGEN SYJUCO, PRESIDENT OF MILITARY COMMISSION 2, THE TRIBUNAL WHICH IS HANDLING THE AQUINO TRIAL. (COMMENT: PRESUMABLY AQUINO'S LABAN PARTY WILL BE PUBLICLY BLAMED FOR THE BOMBING. EMBOFF WHO WAS AT THE HOTEL, HOWEVER, SAID WITNESSES

UNIVERSALLY BELIEVED THAT GOP WAS RESPONSIBLE.)

3. MRS. MARCOS TOLD A RALLY OF JEEPNEY DRIVERS AT THE FOLK ARTS THEATER APRIL 3 THAT MOST OF METRO MANILA'S "TRANSIENT POPULATION" WILL VOTE IN MANILA APRIL 7. AT LEAST HALF A MILLION PEOPLE, SHE SAID, LIVE AND WORK IN METRO MANILA BUT MAINTAIN VOTING RESIDENCES IN THE PROVINCES AS WELL. THEY HAVE DECIDED TO VOTE IN MANILA THIS TIME "TO EXPRESS AND ARTICULATE THEIR APPRECIATION FOR EVERYTHING THE NEW SOCIETY HAS DONE FOR THEM AND THEIR REJECTION OF ALIEN-BACKED ELEMENTS WHO ARE OUT TO LEAD THE COUNTRY BACK TO ANARCHY, VIOLENCE AND CHAOS. THESE PEOPLE ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE METRO MANILA COMMUNITY." (A MALACANANG INSIDER TOLD EMBOFFS APRIL 4 THE GOP WILL TRANSPORT 200,000 "FLYING VOTERS" TO MANILA FOR THE ELECTION. HALF WILL COME FROM NORTHERN LUZON, AND THE OTHER HALF FROM LEYTE AND SAMAR.)

4. AT THE SAME RALLY, PRESIDENT MARCOS ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS EXTENDING SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE AND WORKERS COMPENSATION BENEFITS TO ALL BUS AND JEEPNEY DRIVERS IN THE COUNTRY.

5. THE OPPOSITION LABAN PARTY APRIL 3 PETITIONED THE SUPREME COURT TO STOP THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC)
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FROM ENFORCING A RESOLUTION REQUIRING PARTIES TO SUBMIT THE NAMES OF THEIR OFFICIAL POLL-WATCHERS BY MARCH 31. RESOLUTION REPORTEDLY SAYS THAT ONLY POLL-WATCHERS WHOSE NAMES WERE SUBMITTED IN TIME WILL BE ALLOWED TO SERVE AS SUCH. LABAN SPOKESMAN ROCES OBJECTED TO THE COMELEC RESOLUTION BECAUSE IT WAS ISSUED WITHOUT NOTICE.

6. MANILA NEWSPAPERS APRIL 4 CARRY A PNA STORY THAT THE WIDOW OF CECILIO SUMAT, THE BARRIO CAPTAIN ALLEGEDLY ORDERED KILLED BY LABAN LEADER AQUINO TEN YEARS AGO, WAS HOSPITALIZED WITH ULCERS WHILE ENROUTE TO VISIT PRESIDENT MARCOS. UNDAUNTED, SHE WROTE A (SURPRISINGLY LITERATE) LETTER TO MARCOS: "MRS. AQUINO AND HER FAMILY ARE SEEKING SYMPATHY FOR (AQUINO'S) CASE. ALL I CAN SAY IS, I HOPE THERE WILL ALSO BE SOME MODICUM OF SYMPATHY FOR OUR FAMILY. ...MR. AQUINO IS AT LEAST ALIVE. MY HUSBAND, ON THE OTHER HAND, CAN NO LONGER COME HOME TO SEE ME AND MY CHILDREN. WE WILL NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN BECAUSE HE IS DEAD."

7. COLUMNIST VALENCIA IN DAILY EXPRESS APRIL 4
SAYS: "WHEN THE INTERIM BATASAN PAMBANSA MEETS

SOMETIME NEXT MONTH, THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WILL BE TO ELECT THREE VICE-PRIME MINISTERS. POSSIBLY, THIS WILL MEAN ONE FROM LUZON, ANOTHER FROM VISAYAS AND THIRD FROM MINDANAO. MRS. MARCOS IS NOT GOING TO BE ONE OF THEM.NOW YOU KNOW WHY AMONG KBL CANDIDATES THEY'RE FIGHTING AS IF THEY ARE ON OPPOSING SIDES."

8. VALENCIS ALSO SAYS: "THAT (LABAN) CALL FOR MAKING NOISE ON APRIL 6 EVENING IS NOT ORIGINAL. THAT WAS THE CIA TRICK IN CHILE. THAT WAS ALSO THE CIA TRICK IN INDIA. WE ARE NOT ORIGINAL AT ALL. WHAT THE WESTERN PRESS MAKES POPULAR, WE COPY."

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9. MALACANANG ANNOUNCED APRIL 4 THAT THURSDAY AND SATURDAY, APRIL 6 AND 8, WILL BE OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS. APRIL 7 (ELECTION DAY) AND APRIL 10 (BATAAN DAY) ARE ALREADY OFFICIAL HOLIDAYS, THUS MAKING FOR A FIVE-DAY WEEKEND. LIQUOR SALES, COCKFIGHTS, ETC., ARE BEING BANNED FROM MIDNIGHT APRIL 4 THROUGH ELECTION DAY. STULL

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